

Jeremiah 44:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

Analysis

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt—this introduces Jeremiah's final recorded oracle, addressed to the Jewish diaspora in Egypt. The Hebrew construction emphasizes divine initiative: *haddābār 'ăšer-hāyâ* (the word which came). The geographical specificity—**Migdol, Tahpanhes, Noph (Memphis), and Pathros** (Upper Egypt)—reveals a widespread Jewish settlement throughout Egypt, fleeing despite God's explicit command through Jeremiah (42:19). This dispersion ironically reverses the Exodus, with God's people voluntarily returning to the land of their former bondage.

The phrase **concerning all the Jews** ('el-kol-hayyəhûdîm) is judicial in tone—this is a covenant lawsuit. These communities had disobeyed Jeremiah's prophetic warning not to flee to Egypt, demonstrating that geographical escape cannot evade spiritual accountability. Their physical locations span the entire length of Egypt from north (Migdol, Tahpanhes) to south (Pathros), showing the comprehensiveness of both their rebellion and God's coming judgment.

Historical Context

This oracle dates to approximately 582 BC, after the murder of Gedaliah and the forced flight to Egypt (Jeremiah 43). Jewish mercenary colonies existed in Egypt from the 7th century BC onward, including the famous Elephantine garrison. Archaeological evidence confirms Jewish settlements at Tahpanhes (Tell Defenneh) and Memphis during this period. These refugees defied Jeremiah's explicit warning in chapter 42, choosing perceived safety in Egypt over obedience to God's word.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When have you sought safety or security in places or circumstances that contradict God's revealed will?
2. How does the irony of God's people returning to Egypt challenge your understanding of spiritual regression?
3. What does it mean that God's word pursues His people even in their disobedience?

Interlinear Text

כָּל אֲלֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר בָּזְבָּר
The word H834 H1961 H413 that came to Jeremiah H413 H3605
H1697 H3414

בִּשְׁבֵּי מִצְרָיִם וְבָאָצָר בְּהַזְּדִיקָם
concerning all the Jews which dwell and in the country of Egypt which dwell
H3064 H3427 H776 H4714 H3427

לֹא מֵרָא פְּתַר וְסִבְמָחָפָנִים סְבִמְגָדָל
at Migdol and at Tahpanhes and at Noph and in the country of Pathros saying
H4024 H8471 H5297 H776 H6624 H559

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:14 (Word): Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

Isaiah 11:11 (References Egypt): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Exodus 14:2 (Parallel theme): Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Isaiah 19:13 (References Egypt): The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof.

Jeremiah 46:19 (References Egypt): O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 2:16 (Parallel theme): Also the children of Noph and Tahapanes have broken the crown of thy head.

Ezekiel 30:14 (Parallel theme): And I will make Pathros desolate, and will set fire in Zoan, and will execute judgments in No.

Ezekiel 30:18 (References Egypt): At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity.

Ezekiel 30:16 (References Egypt): And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily.

Ezekiel 29:14 (References Egypt): And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.